whether on 2nd April Hon'ble Minister discussed the possibility of fixing up a date for a meeting to revive the last round of the composite dialogue process;

whether the new Government of Pakistan has agreed to continue talks to improve the relations; and

if so, whether any final date has been fixed for resumption of talks with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes.

(d) External Affairs Minister will be visiting Islamabad on 21 May 2008 to hold the review meeting of the 4th round of Composite Dialogue. The visit of External Affairs Minister will be preceded by the visit of Foreign Secretary on 20 May 2008.

Supply of arms to Nepal

3297. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether Indian has started supplying arms to Nepal;

if so, the details thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

Does not arise.

No formal request has been received from the Government of Nepal.

Renewal of passports

3298. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether any limit has been prescribed for submitting applications and issue of fresh passports or in case of renewal/re-issue of passport by the passport offices under normal or Tatkal scheme; and

if so, the'details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Under normal category, time target for issue of fresh passports is 30 days subject to receipt of clear Police Verification Report and completion of all formalities. In re-issue cases, time target for issue of passports is 15 days from the date of application subject to completion of all formalities. Under the "Tatkal Scheme", passports are to be issued within 7 days or within 14 days depending upon the payment of prescribed fees and submission of documents required under the Tatkal Scheme. The re-issue of passports under the Tatkal scheme is within 3 working days on payment of prescribed fee and submission of prescribed documents.